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Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01
CU-02 MCT-01 SIL-01 LAB-04 /063 W
----------151208Z 047004 /20
R 141515Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2737
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L ADDIS ABABA 0928

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS SEDU ET
SUBJ: PMAC ANNOUNCES CAMPAIGN AGAINST ANARCHIST YOUTH

REFS: A) AA 089 B) AA 524 C) AA 653 C) AA 827

SUMMARY: TRUE TO ITS PROMISE TO ASSUME OFFENSIVE IN PURSUING REV-
OLUTION, EPMG APPEARS TO BE MOVING FIRMLY TO PUT AN END TO STUDENT
DISTURBANCES. PROVISIONAL MILITARY ADMIN. COUNCIL (PMAC) ISSUED
STATEMENT FEB 10, CALLING ON URBAN DWELLERS ASSOCIATIONS (KEBELES),
SCHOOL SUPERVISORY COMMITTEES, TEACHERS, AND PROGRESSIVE STUDENTS
TO "EFFECTIVELY CHECK CAMPAIGN BY FEW ANARCHISTS TO BOYCOTT EDU-
CATIONAL CLASSES AND DISRUPT ONGOING POPULAR REVOLUTION." TURNING
STUDENTS OWN RHETORIC AROUND, PMAC STATEMENT IDENTIFIED DISRUPTIVE
YOUTHS AS "FASCIST YOUNGSTERS, ANTI-REVOLUTIONARIES, REMNANTS OF OF
OLD ARISTOCRACY AND RIFRAFF OFFSPRING OF ARISTOCRATS AND BOURGEOI-
SIE." STATEMENT MENTIONED COUNTERREVOLUTIONARY ACTS IN SHCOOLS PAST
2 WEEKS AND LISTED ETHIOPIAN PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY EPRP)
AS STUDENTS FELLOW CONSPIRATORS. STATEMENT VIEWED CAMPAIGN OF TER-
ROR AND ANARCHY UNLEASHED PAST SIX MONTHS BY EPRP AND OTHER AGENTS
OF REMNANTS OF OLD ARISTOCRACY AS FURTHER EVIDENCE OF INTENSIFIED
CLASS STRUGGLE OF OPPRESSED MASSES. ANNOUNCEMENT SAYS ETHIOPIAN
BROAD MASSES WILL NOT SIT IDLE AND ALLOW REACTIONARIES MOUNT CAM-
PAIGN OF CHAOS IN ATTEMPT TO ROB CHILDREN OF BROAD MASSES OF THEIR
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REVOLUTIONARY MOTHERLAND. RELIABLE SOURCES REPORTED STUDENT LED
ANTI-GOVERNMENT INCIDENTS AFTERNOON FEB 12 WHICH APPARENTLY HAVE
RESULTED IN ARRESTS OF "HUNDREDS" OF STQAINT AGE YOUTH AND ALLEGED
DEATHS OF MANY OTHERS. EPRP LEAFLETS OBSERVED AT MOST TROUBLE
SITES, AND CHANTS HEARD OF "DOWN WITH MENGISTU" AND "LONG LIVE
TEFERI BANTE". PMAC STATEMENT CONCLUDED "THERE NOF FORCE WHATSOEVER
THAT CAN WITHSTAND UNITED AND STRONG ARMS OF BROAD MASSES FROM

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CRUSHING REACTIONARIES AND FASCIST YOUTH REGARDLESS OF AGE OR SEX".
END SUMMARY.

1. IN APPARENT EFFORT TO BREAK STUDENT BOYCOTT OF CLASSES WHICH HAS GATHERED STRENGTH SINCE JAN 24, SUCCESSFULLY HALTING ALL UNIVERSITY HIGH SCHOOL, AND MOST JUNIOR HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES IN ADDIS, PMAC ISSUED FEB 10 STATEMENT URGING KEBELES, SCHOOL SUPERVISORY COMMIT-TEES, TEACHERS, AND "PROGRESSIVE" STUDENTS TO DISCHARGE RESPONSI-BILITIES AGAINST ANARCHIST YOUTH. STATEMENT CAREFULLY WORDED SO AS NOT TO CONDEMN ALL STUDENTS OR ALL YOUTHS. IN FACT IT PRAISED STUDENTS AS HAVING SPEARHEADED STRUGGLE AGAINST PSEUDO-FASCISTIC RULE OF HAILE SELASSIE BUT CAUTIONED START OF REVOLUTION HAD NOT ENDED STRUGGLE, BUT HAD OPENED NEW CHAPTER IN STUDENTS CRUSADE, ESPECIALLY AGAINST YOUNGSTERS WHO REFUSED TO JOIN IN PURSUIT OF REVOLUTIONARY GOALS. OVER PAST YEARS, STATEMENT ASSERTS, BITTER CLASS STRUGGLE HAS BEEN CARRIED OUT WITHING RANKS OF STUDENT MOVEMENT.

2. STATENDANT NOTED THERE WERE REMNANTS OF DEPOSED ARISTOCRACY AMONG STUDENT POPULATION, AND IT AGAINS
DWHESE ELDTENTS HEROIC
STRUGGLE BEING FOUGHT. THESZDDEACTIONARY AND FASCISTYUTUDENT YOUTNP HADHJPPOSED NATIONAL WORK CAMPAIGN FOR DEVELOPMENT THROUGH COOPER-ATION (ZEMACHA), INTIMIDATED, MANHANDLED, KIDNAPPED, TORTURED,:
-,$ .74$343$ 049&43 8;3 857$3,5 , HAD CONSI
RED WITH EPRP, OPPOSED
RURAL AND URBAN LAND REFORM, AND HAD DISMISSED NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC REVOLUTION PROGRAM (ND) AS FASCIST. STATEMENT NOTED VANGUARDGC YOUTH HAD BEEN INTENSIFYING STRUGGLE OF BROAD MASSES IN ACCORDANCE
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LH NDR AND HAD"SUCCESSFULY"FRUSTRATED ATTEMPTED PLOTS TO BOY-COTT CLASSES.
ME
3. PMAC ANNOUNCEMENT STATED EPRP CAMPAIGN OF TERROR AND ANARCHY UN-LEASHED PAST SIX MONTHS WAS "DEATH-BED STRUGGLE TO ENTRENCH THEM-SELVES WITHIN RANKS OF STUDENTS" AND FURTHER EVIDENCE OF INTENSI-FIED CLASS STRUGGLE. ACTIS OF "TERRORISM AND SAVAGERY" WHICH HAD INCREASED PAST TWO WEEKS IN ADDIS ABABA SCHOOLS LAID AT DOORSTEP OF EPRP, WITH ENCOURAGEMENT AND COMPLICITY OFFEW PMAC REACTIONARY MEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN CRUSHED. STATEMENT CITED NUMEROUS INSTANCES OF INHUMAN AND FASCISTIC ACTS AGAINST PROGRES-SIVE AND REVOLUTION ARY STUDENTS IN PAST WEEK ALONE. INTERRUPTION OF EDUCATIONAL CLASSESS VIEWED AS CRIME AGAINST ENTIRE NATION, WITHBROAD MASSES LOSING PATIENCE AND HAVING NEITHER DESIRE NOR DIS-POSTION TO TOLERATE ANY LONGER ANARCHISTS ARMED BY ARISTOCRATIC REMNANSTS.

R. STATEMENT WARNS BROAD MASSES THEY IN MIDST OF SERIOUS TRIAL AND

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STRUGGLE AGAINST FORCES FROM VARIOUS DIRECTIONS CHALLENGING ESIS-
TENCE OF MOTHERLAND AND OPPOSING POPULAR REVOLUTION. PMAC
STATEMENT SAYS HISTORY OF ETHIOPIAN REVOLUTION BEING WRITTEN WITH
BLOOD MASSES AND URGES THEM NOT TO SIT IDLY BY AND ALLOW REACTION-
ARY ELEMENTS TO UNDO GAINS OF REVOLUTION. STATEMENT CONCLUDES BROAD
MASSES WILL CRUSH REACTIONARIES AND FASCIST YOUTH.

5. USUALLY RELAIBLE SOURCES REPORT SOME ANTI-EPMG INCIDENT SSAT.
AFTERNOON FEB 12 OCCURED AT AS MANY AS FOUR LOCATIONS AND POSSIBLY
MORE. AT ONE SITE MENGISTU ALLEGEDLY HANGED IN EFFIGY AND SLOGANS
OF "DWON WITH MENGISTU" AND "LONG LIVE TEFERI BANT" SHOUTED. IT
APPEARS EPMG SOLDIERS AND POLICE ARRIVED QUICKLY AND ARRESTED AND
BEAT-UP STUDENT -AGED PEOPLE IN VICINITY OF DEMONSTRATION, INCLUD-
ING NON-PARTICIPANTS. OTHER REPORTS AHD LARGE NUMBERS OF STUD-
ENTS ARRESTED AND SOME KILLED. EPRP LEAFLETS EVIDENT AT SITE OF
ICIDENTS AND THROUGHOUT ADDIS, ALTHOUGH CALM WAS QUICKLY RESTORED
AND SUNDAY AND TODAY HAVE BEEN QUIET, REPORTS OF ARRESTS OR WORSE
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SEEM TO HAVE BEEN BORNE OUT BY LARGE CROWD GATHERED AT GATE TO MEN-
ELIK PLACE THIS MORNING, WHICH WE UNDERSTAND CONSITED OF PARENTS
SEEKING INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR MISSING CHILDREN.

6. COMMENT: STRONG PMAC STATEMENT APPARENTLY HERALDS BEGINNING
OF CAMPAIGN TO WINNOW OUT DISRUPTIVE STUDENT ELEMENTS, PERCEIVED AS
EPRP OR AT LEAST ANTI-PMAC FORCES, FROM REST OF STUDENT BODY WHO
EPMG PRESUMES WISH TO RETURN TO CLASSES. RELIABEL SURCES DO NOT
BELIEVE STUDENTS WILL DROP BOYCOTT UNTIL DEMANDS (REFTEL B) MET.
IT EXTREMELY UNLIKELY EPMG WILL MEET DEMANDS IN PRESENT ATMOSPHERE.
AT PRESENT, MAJORITY OF STUDENTS EXTREMELY WARY OF GOVERNMENT AND
OF EACH OTHER, AND WITH GOOD REASON IN LIGHT OFINCIDENTS PAST TWO
WEEKS IN WHICH NOT ONLY EPMG PERSONNEL BUT ALSO FELLOW CLASSMATES
HAVE KILLED, WOUNDED, BEATEN, AND GENERALLY TERRORIZED EACH OTHER
TO ENFORCE BOYCOTT (REFTEL C)M PMAC CAMPAIGN APPEARS DETERMINED
EFFORT TO COMPLETE SCHOOL YEAR. HOWEVER, IT SEEMS " STUDENTS" AND
EPRP HAVE TAKEN UP PMAC CHALLENGE AND HAVE DISPLAYED THEIR METTLE
IN FACE OF FEB. 10 PMAC STATEMENT. ADDIS ABABA ANTI-PMAC AND ANTI
MENGISTU INCIDENTS HAD WELL-PLANNED, EPRP SUPPORTED APPEARANCE.
ALTHOUGH GOVERNMENT REACTION STRONG AND SWIFT, ADDIS ABABA UNIVER-
SITY AND HIGH SCHOOLS REMAIN CLOSED AND STUDENTS SEEM EVEN MORE
DETERMINED TO PROLONG BOYCOTT. INTENSIFYING EPMG-STUDENT STRUGGLE
MAY BE FIRST MAJOR TEST OF STRENGTH FOR NEWLY-CONSOLIDATED PMAC.
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Feb-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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